PRASAD): (a) Import of edible vegetable oils during the last three years is as under:—

YEAR	QUANTITY (in MT)	VALUE (Rs. Lakhs)
1998-99	2621851	758892.58
1999-2000	4195638	804605.37
2000-2001*	3974638	593275.74

*Provisional

(SOURCE: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta)

(b) and (c) A Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is in implementation in various Stales in the country to increase the production of oilseeds. There was a distress sale of some of the oilseeds like soyabean, rapesecd-mustard, sunflower, coconut etc. However, in order to protect the interest of the growers, NAFED was instructed to procure the produce of the farmers on Minimum Support Price (MSP) where there was a distress sale.

Identification of BPL families

472. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether identification of BPL families has been completed in all the States and Union Territories of the country;

(b) if not, the norms required for such identification; and

(c) how many ration cards were issued for BPL families in Delhi and Shillong (Meghalaya)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) All the State Governments/UT Administrations except Lakshadweep have identified BPL families with varying degree of efficiency. Identification of target families is the most critical element for effecivc implementation of TPDS, which is done by the Stale Governments/UT Administrations. The thrust is to include only the really poor and vulnerable sections of the society such as landless agricultural labourers, marginal farmers, artisan, potters, tappers, weavers etc. in rural areas and slum dwellers and persons earning their livelihood on a daily basis like porters, rickshaw pullers, hand cart pullers, flower sellers in urban areas.

Identification of BPL families requires to be reviewed at regular intervals to take into account the mobility of the households across the poverty line and migration of population.

(c) As reported by the Government of Delhi, 3,35,505 families having Jhuggi Ration Cards have been identified as BPL families and they are getting benefits under TPDS.

As per the latest report recieved, Government of Meghalaya has identified 1.72 lakh BPL families in the State. Number of BPL families identified by the Governments in individual cities or districts including Shillong in Meghalaya is not maintained in the Government of India.

Efficiency of P.D.S.

473. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to poor co-ordination between the Centre and States coupled with resource constraint on the part of the State Governments efficacy of the Public Distribution System has been seriously eroded;

(b) if so, what alternative methods are being considered so that highly subsidised foodgrains are not allowed to rot in Government godowns resulting in hardships to comparatively poorer sections of the society; and

(c) whether Government are thinking of introducing overall reforms in foodgrains production as suggested by the Planning Commission recently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) Public Distribution System is operated under the joint responsibility of Centre and State Governments. The Central Government has assumed the responsibility for procurement, storage, transportation and bulk allocation at subsidised prices of certain essential items, *viz,,* rice, wheat, sugar, imported edible oil and kerosene. The responsibility of distribution to the consumers through the network of FPSs rests with the State Governments.

In order to improve the PDS infrastructure, Government of India is providing financial assistance to the States/UT under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes 'construction of godowns' in remote hilly and rural areas and for purchase of mobile vans/trucks for transportation of PDS commodities and to function as mobile fair price shops, which is supplementary in nature. Financial